

2nd March 1925]

[Mr. R. A. Graham]

"I take it that there is not much complaint about the policy laid down in G.O. No. 658. The complaint is that the visible results have not been sufficient. It must be admitted that the results in some offices and districts have been quite appreciable. As a means of correcting the tendencies of individual patronage, pending the formation of a Public Services Commission, we have constituted the Staff Selection Board which has come in for a great deal of unmerited obloquy, partly because hon. Members do not understand the object of it. The Staff Selection Board does not make appointments. When it was constituted it was instructed to bear in mind the principles laid down in the G.O. No. 658. I have every reason to believe that it has done so. Its function is to make selection from the applicants for Government service so as to ensure that only fit men shall be appointed. It is not part of its duty to see that no Brahman is admitted in the services, nor is that laid down as the duty of any authority. The actual appointing authorities have not been changed; they too are bound by the terms of the Government Order. Where the Staff Selection Board operates, the choice of the appointing authority is limited to the applicants selected by that Board. Unfortunately it has not been possible to extend the operations of the Board all over the Presidency. It has as much as it can to do at present with appointments at headquarters. In the Staff Selection Board lies the answer to the complaint that no member of the depressed classes or other unrepresented classes can now obtain employment in Government service, because owing to local influence his application is always turned down on the ground that he is incompetent. Any person can make his application to the Staff Selection Board. The Board will then satisfy itself whether he is competent and fit to be taken into Government service. If he is, it will include him in its list. And if the appointing authorities still refuse to take him in, then there is reason for complaint against them."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"May I know whether the Board recommends for all grades of appointments?"

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"It does not at present. As I stated, its activities are at present confined to the Madras City. My hon. Colleague informs me that it covers appointments in the Police department all over the Presidency."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"May I ask one question, Sir? Suppose there are hundred applications before the Staff Selection Board from men of all communities and amongst these there are members of the depressed classes who are qualified persons, persons who have passed the B.A. Degree Examination and these persons are selected by the Board along with those of other communities with perhaps B.A. (Hons.) degrees, I want to know whether a chance is given to the men from the depressed classes or educationally backward classes by reason of the Staff Selection Board? Or does the Board merely submit to the Government or the appointing authority a list of all the names and they choose ten or fifteen persons who are most competent. Is a chance also given to the members of the depressed classes or educationally backward communities?"

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"Unhesitatingly I say, yes."

"The Staff Selection Board makes its selections in such a way as to bring forward all members of backward communities who are fit for Government service at all. Of course it would not select or recommend a man with

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Censure on the Chairman, Trichinopoly municipality.

* 316 Q.—Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the G.O. Mis. No. 1771, L. & M., dated 30th June 1924, censuring the Chairman of the Trichinopoly municipality was passed after hearing the explanation of the chairman of the municipality; and

(b) if not, why not?

A.—The order was passed on the report of the Inspector of Local Boards and Municipal Councils based on facts and figures supplied by the chairman or available in the municipal office. The chairman subsequently sent in an explanation and the Government were satisfied that except in regard to a trivial matter the facts were as reported by the Inspector.

Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB:—“Sir, the answer to the question is really evasive. May I ask the hon. the Minister whether an opportunity was given to the Chairman of the Trichinopoly municipality before the Government Order was passed?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“Sir, the question is answered. A special officer was appointed to inquire into the matter and he submitted a report. Upon the report of the officer Government came to a decision. Later on, the chairman of the municipal council submitted his explanation the details of which were on the same lines as the report referred to.”

Mr. P. SIVA RAO:—“Was the chairman given an opportunity to explain before orders were passed?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“Final orders were passed after the explanation of the chairman was received.”

Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB:—“The Government Order was passed on 30th June 1924 and the Inspector of Municipalities came and inspected the municipality in the month of April. The explanation of the chairman was only after the date of the Government Order.”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“Yes; but final orders were passed only after the explanation of the chairman was considered.”

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—“Was the chairman furnished with a copy of the report of the special officer?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“The chairman was furnished with relevant extracts from the report.”

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—“Was it before he sent in his explanation?”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—“May I ask the hon. the Minister whether the special officer submitted irrelevant things also in his report?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“I do not think logic warrants that conclusion.”